



Handwritten initials

7 September 1960

✓ *care*
Mr. Paul Mooton
THE TIMES-PICAYUNE
1015 National Press Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear Paul,

Allen Dulles asked me to thank you for the editorial,
"Code and Mystery," from a recent issue of the TIMES-PICAYUNE.

It was very thoughtful of you, as always, to send this
clipping to us.

Best regards to you and to your good editor, George
Healy.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director

ODCI/HS/SJGrogan/nhh

✓ cc: DCI w/basic

ER

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE W)

Memo from

PAUL WOOTON

1015 National Press Building

Col. Grogan

SEE FILE

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The Times

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JOHN F. TIM
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Code and Mystery

Two questions remain unan-
swered in connection with the sup-
posed defection to the iron curtain
of two National Security Agency
experts, Bernon F. Mitchell and
William N. Martin;

—Why did they defect?—if they
did.

—Did they carry highly valua-
ble cryptographic (code) informa-
tion with them to Russia?

Rep. John W. McCormack says
he has learned that they took in-
formation more valuable than the
NSA has admitted, and wants the
Walter un-American activities
committee to investigate. Nobody,
so far as we have seen, has ad-
vanced any reason why the com-
paratively young mathematicians
should want to hike off to Russia.
They have been traced to Mexico
and then Cuba where the tracks
apparently were lost.

Work of the "defectors" has not
been precisely described. The NSA
seems to be super-secret all
around. But it does work on in-
telligence communications, inter-
cepts radio signals, etc. What in-
formation was available to Mit-
shell and Martin is not indicated,
and obviously there is a dispute
about how valuable it would be to
Russia and how dangerous or in-
convenient to the US.

Knowing and "breaking" codes
had enormous advantages during
World War II as both the US and
Japan can testify. We imagine
NSA is taking no chances. But it
would be interesting to know from
Rep. Walters committee, if it finds
out how much comfort the "de-
fectors" have given the Kremlin
and why they put us to such seri-